

Office of Criminal Justice Coordination
City of New Orleans

Public Safety Summit

2025



Hosted by
Commissioner
Tenisha Stevens



June 28, 2025

9:30 AM - 1:30 PM

***Advancing Safety and Justice
Through Community Empowerment
and Collective Impact***

Office of Criminal Justice Coordination
City of New Orleans

Agenda

Public Safety Summit Program

2025



9:00am - 9:30am

Registration & Networking



9:30am - 9:50am

Opening Session



10am - 10:45am

Interactive Workshops



10:55am - 11:35am

Rooted in Reality: Youth
Leading the Change to
Address Community Violence



11:45am - 12:15pm

Lunch and Resource Tabling



12:15pm - 1:00pm

Interactive Workshops

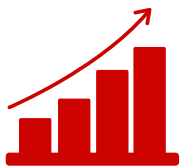


1:00pm - 1:30pm

Advancing Safety and
Justice Fireside Chat

*Advancing Safety and Justice
Through Community Empowerment and Collective Impact*

OUR MISSION



MISSION

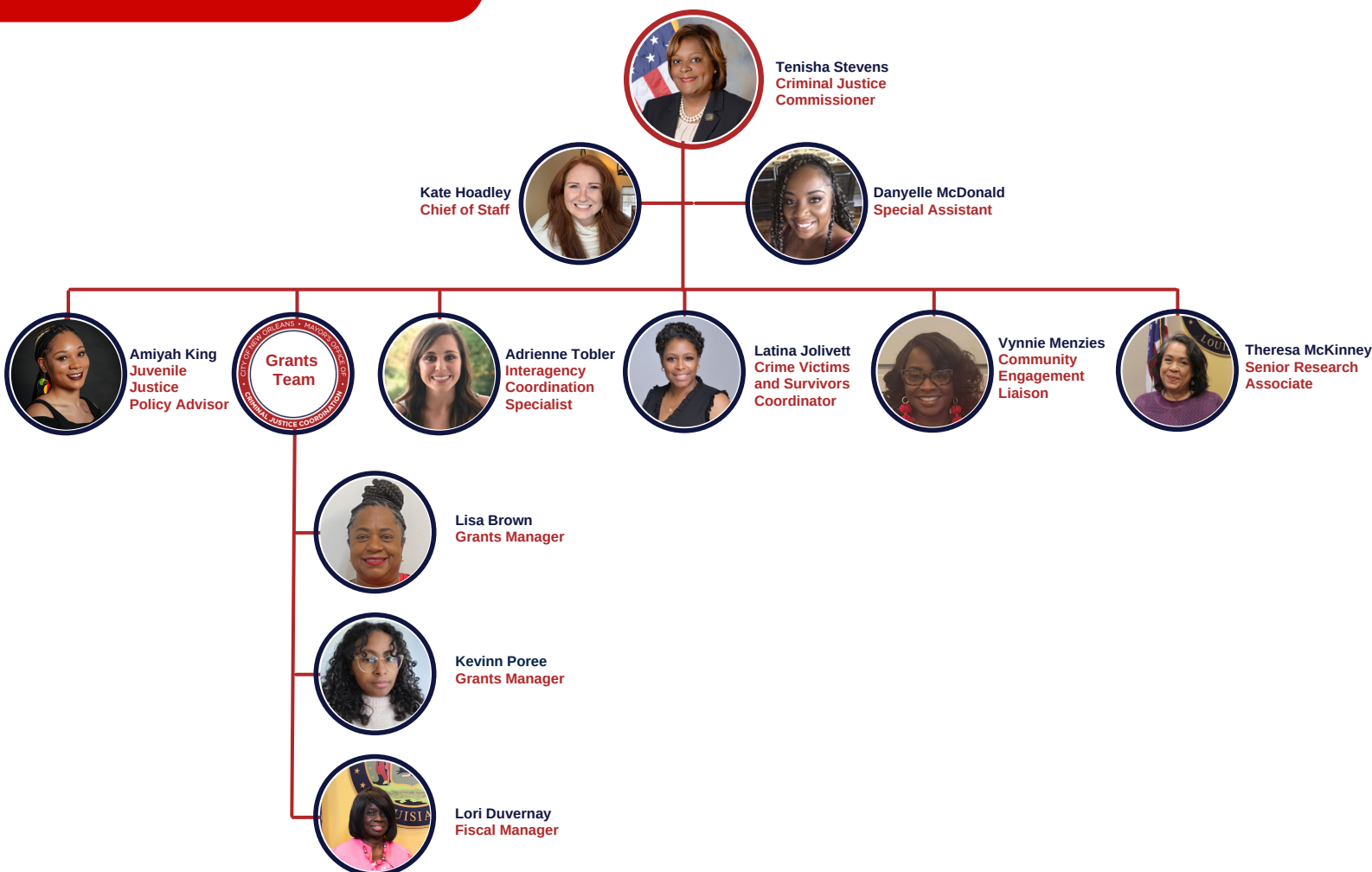
The Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice Coordination (OCJC) fosters system-wide communication and evidence-based policymaking to promote an accountable, coordinated, equitable, efficient, and effective criminal and juvenile justice system.



VISION

The Office of Criminal Justice Coordination envisions humane and comprehensive justice for all persons at all points in the justice system to foster safe and flourishing communities.

OUR TEAM



Welcome to the 2025 Public Safety Summit

Thank you for participating in the 2025 Public Safety Summit. We hope that over the course of today you will have a chance to learn, connect, and shape public safety solutions.

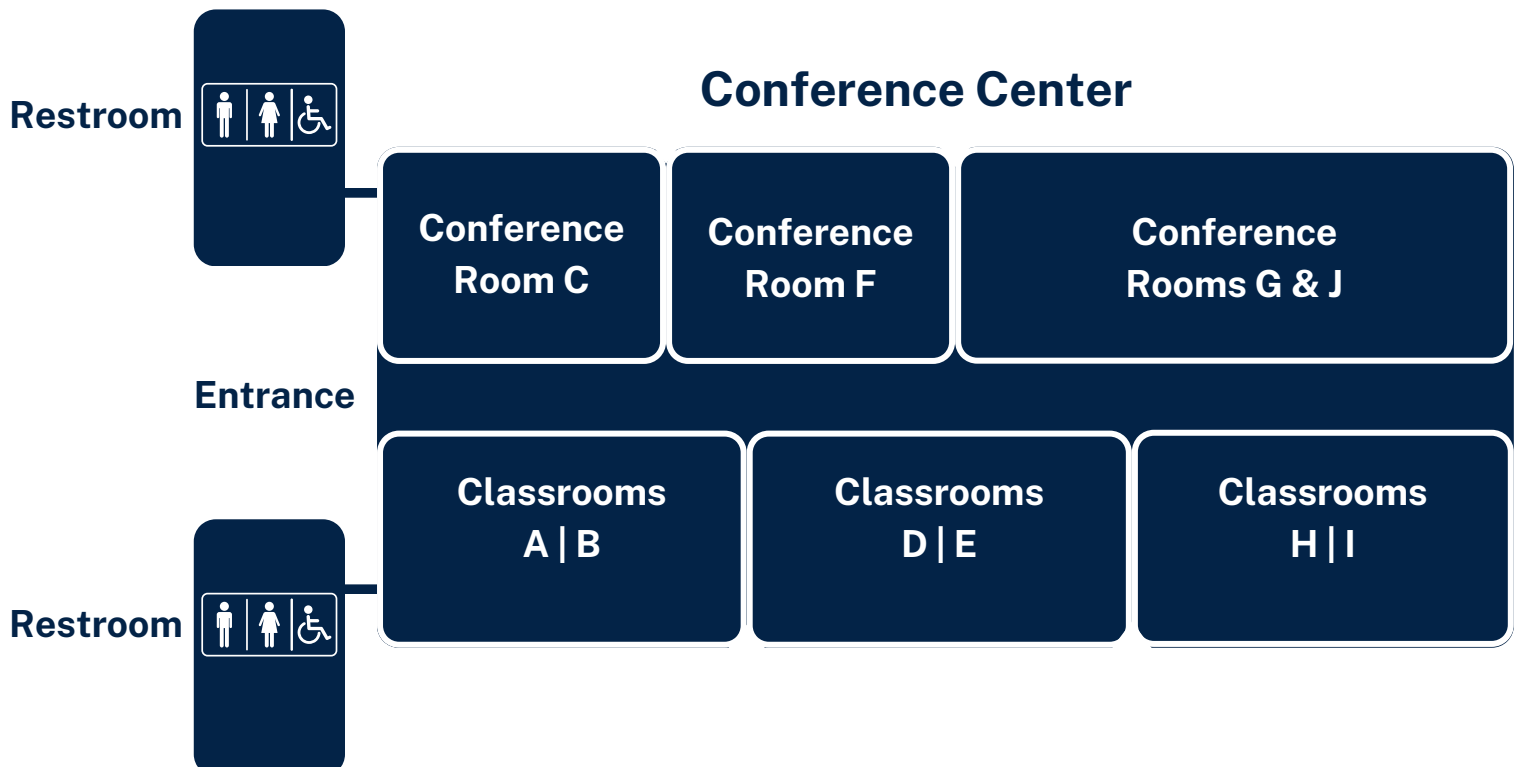
The theme of this year's summit is 'Advancing Safety and Justice Through Community Empowerment and Collective Impact' because we know that making our city safer must be a collective effort.

Your presence matters. Your leadership matters. Thank you for being here.

In service,

Commissioner Stevens and the Office of Criminal Justice Coordination Team

Wifi Network: UMCGuest



SESSIONS

9:30 AM | OPENING SESSION

CONFERENCE ROOMS G & J

Criminal Justice Commissioner Tenisha Stevens and public safety leaders welcome you to the 2025 Public Safety Summit. Speakers will explore this year's theme, "Advancing Safety and Justice Through Community Empowerment and Collective Impact."

Speakers: Charlotte Parent, Rev. Dr. Demetrese D. Phillips, Commissioner Tenisha Stevens, Superintendent Anne Kirkpatrick, Ja'Ryan Berryhill

10:00 AM | INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS

ADVANCING SAFETY THROUGH ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

CONFERENCE ROOM C

In this workshop, participants will learn about the Empowerment Network, an emerging initiative, aimed at providing a coordinated framework for violence reduction and community empowerment. Participants will also have an opportunity to provide input on solutions to prevent violence through economic empowerment.

Facilitators: Thelma French, Dr. Raynard Sanders, TCA Safety and Justice Team

EMPOWERING YOUTH VOICES: ADVANCING JUSTICE THROUGH YOUTH PERSPECTIVES AND MENTAL WELLNESS

CONFERENCE ROOM F

Hosted by the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council (MYAC) Juvenile Justice and Mental Health Committee, this interactive workshop explores how centering youth perspectives and prioritizing mental health can drive meaningful change in public safety and justice systems. Participants will engage in collaborative dialogue, hear from young leaders with lived experiences, and explore innovative approaches to youth-centered reform.

Facilitators: Yaa Boateng, Bethany Livers, Cheyenne Lewis, David Martinez, Ezekiel Whitley, McKenzie Marsalis, Nai'Jai Williams, Shayla Johnson, Taylor Hart, Ja'Ryan Berryhill

SESSIONS

10:55 AM | ROOTED IN REALITY: YOUTH LEADING THE CHANGE TO ADDRESS COMMUNITY VIOLENCE

CONFERENCE ROOMS G & J

Join us for a powerful plenary panel featuring youth leaders ages 15–23 from the NACCHO-funded Violence Prevention Action Team—a group of young changemakers participating in an 8-week civic engagement initiative focused on community violence prevention and intervention. From the root causes of crime such as poverty, systemic racism, trauma, and disinvestment, to the need for healing-centered responses and youth-led solutions, their voices will challenge assumptions and ignite critical conversation. This is more than a panel, it's a call to listen, learn, and follow the lead of those most impacted and most ready to act.

Speakers: Trinity Ross, Essynce Hayes, Amna Shamseldin, Samira Miller, Santos Cuellar

12:15 PM | INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS

DISPELLING MYTHS TO ADVANCE PUBLIC SAFETY: MAPPING FIREARM HOMICIDE DATA IN NEW ORLEANS

CONFERENCE ROOM C

In this workshop, participants will explore an interactive mapping tool of firearm homicides in New Orleans and provide input on how this data could be used to improve public safety.

Facilitators: Dr. Kim Mosby, Dr. Julia Fleckman, PhD, MPH

COUNTERACTING MISCONCEPTIONS AND FALSE NARRATIVES TO ADVANCE JUSTICE

CONFERENCE ROOM F

In this workshop, participants will explore new tools to build effective arguments to challenge common misconceptions and false narratives about the criminal justice system.

Facilitators: Theresa McKinney, Kate Hoadley

SESSIONS

1:00 PM | ADVANCING SAFETY AND JUSTICE FIRESIDE CHAT CONFERENCE ROOMS G & J

Chris James, a member of the Social Justice and Well-being team with the W. Haywood Burns Institute, will facilitate a fireside chat with Tenisha Stevens, Criminal Justice Commissioner for the City of New Orleans, on her experience serving as Commissioner since 2018.

Speakers: Chris James, Commissioner Tenisha Stevens

MEET YOUR HOST!



ESSYNCE HAYES MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Essynce Hayes is newly graduated senior from Saint Mary's Academy of New Orleans. She is 18 years old and will be attending the University of Louisiana at Lafayette this upcoming fall, majoring in biology on a Pre-Law track.

Essynce has always participated in her community whether it was in sports, community service/ volunteer work, or internships and camps. Growing up, Essynce was taught that the one of the greatest god given gifts is having a voice. It was instilled in her to speak up, even in the face of adversity and to never be afraid of using her voice even if she feels no one is listening. Essynce intends to continue to use her voice to be a leader and to make a difference. Essynce believes that her voice carries volumes and no matter what room she enters or who she encounters, she will never let fear be the reason she remains silent.

Thank you!



To Our Public Safety Summit Host Committee Partners and Sponsors



Supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation



SOUNDS BY

JAXON FIRICANO

Jaxon Firicano is participating in the Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program as an employee with the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice Coordination. Jaxon recently graduated from the JRTOTC Program at Morris Jeff High School. He aspires to become a New Orleans Police Officer. Jaxon likes to travel to be able to learn about other communities and gain new experiences.

LEE JACOB

Lee Jacob is 17 years old and a recent graduate of Morris Jeff High School. Lee is a dreamer who loves to brainstorm and to have conversations with new people. In his spare time, Lee likes to hang out with his friend Jaxon and go on adventures.

FEATURED SPEAKERS

CHARLOTTE PARENT, RN, BSN, MHCM

Charlotte Parent, RN, BSN, MHCM, has more than 30 years of experience in health care, most recently serving as Vice President Business Development and Community at University Medical Center. She has also served as the Assistant Vice President of Community Services for LCMC Health. From 2014-2016, she served as Director of the New Orleans Health Department. While in her role as New Orleans Health Director, she was instrumental in the development and implementation of the city's smoking ban and initiatives related to homelessness, domestic violence, and sexual assault. She has also served on various boards and committees both locally and nationally.

Early in her career, she was the director of Maternal and Child Services at Touro Infirmary in New Orleans, where she developed and oversaw services for expectant mothers and their families. A native New Orleanian, Charlotte, received her Diploma of Nursing at the Charity Hospital School of Nursing, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Loyola University and a master's degree in health care management from the University of New Orleans.

Rev. Dr. Demetrese Phillips

Rev. Dr. Demetrese Phillips is the Senior Pastor at Senior Pastor at Historic St. James AME Church. He received his Doctor of Ministry at Southern Methodist University.

FEATURED SPEAKERS

SUPERINTENDENT ANNE KIRKPATRICK

Superintendent Anne Kirkpatrick is one of the most tenured police executives in the country, with over 35 years of policing experience and 20 years as a Chief of Police. A Memphis, Tenn. native, Kirkpatrick has a proven track record across a diverse number of jurisdictions for transforming police departments and reducing violent crime. Kirkpatrick most recently served as Chief of Police in Oakland, where she implemented a significant cultural change in terms of increasing police accountability and transparency, improving Procedural Justice and implementing equity-based decision-making. This cultural shift coincided with a 20-year low homicide rate and a decrease in non-fatal shootings during her tenure.

Prior to her tenure in Oakland, Kirkpatrick served as Bureau Chief in Chicago, where she was the liaison to the Department of Justice (DOJ) while the Chicago Police Department was under investigation for patterns and practice of civil rights violations, resulting in a consent decree. Kirkpatrick also served as Chief of Police in the cities of Ellensburg, Federal Way and Spokane, all in the State of Washington, as well as serving as Undersheriff of the King County Sheriff's Office. In addition to executive leadership experience, Kirkpatrick is a National Instructor for the FBI's Law Enforcement Executive Association's Leadership Training Program, where she instructs on topics including, but not limited to, Bias and Diversity, Emotional Intelligence and Leading Generations.

JA'RYAN BERRYHILL

Ja'Ryan Berryhill is a dedicated youth leader, advocate, and changemaker from New Orleans. As the Chairman of the Juvenile Justice Committee on the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council, he works to elevate the voices of young people in conversations around reform, equity, and opportunity. Ja'Ryan has presented at community events, advised elected officials, and sat in on legislative sessions and committee hearings at the Louisiana State Capitol to ensure youth perspectives are represented in policymaking.

With a strong commitment to civic engagement and uplifting his community, Ja'Ryan continues to lead with purpose, passion, and a belief that young people deserve a seat at every table where decisions about their future are being made.

FEATURED SPEAKERS

TRINITY ROSS

Trinity Ross is 19 years old and a junior at Southern University A & M majoring in psychology and minoring in criminal justice. Trinity is an At-Risk Youth Mentor in partnership with the Southern University NAACP, an intern at the Office of Criminal Justice Coordination, and a member of the Violence Prevention Action Team.

AMNA SHAMSELDIN

Amna Shamseldin is 19 years old and a junior majoring in Biochemistry with a double concentration in Sociology and Mathematics at Xavier University of Louisiana. Amna is a fellow for the New Orleans Youth Initiative, a Peer Mentor for the Pre-College programs at XULA, Social Media Chair for the Social Justice Coalition org at XULA, and a member of the Violence Prevention Action Team.

SANTOS CUELLAR

Santos Cuellar is 17 years old and is attending Warren Easton High School. He is a student-athlete, who plays basketball. Being personally impacted by the juvenile legal system, Santos is very passionate about learning about policy and criminal justice. An advocate for change, Santos wants to support his peers and community through his work with the Violence Prevention Action Team.

SAMIRA MILLER

Samira Miller is 20 years old and majoring in Sterile Processing. This upcoming fall, she will be transferring to a Surgical Technology Degree at Herzing University. Samira is a member of the Violence Prevention Action Team.

ESSYNCE HAYES

Essynce Hayes is newly graduated senior from Saint Mary's Academy of New Orleans. She is 18 years old and will be attending the University of Louisiana at Lafayette this upcoming fall, majoring in biology on a Pre-Law track.

Essynce has always participated in her community whether it was in sports, community service/volunteer work, or internships and camps. Growing up, Essynce was taught that the one of the greatest god given gifts is having a voice. It was instilled in her to speak up, even in the face of adversity and to never be afraid of using her voice even if she feels no one is listening. Essynce intends to continue to use her voice to be a leader and to make a difference through the Violence Prevention Action Team.

FEATURED SPEAKERS

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSIONER TENISHA STEVENS

Commissioner Stevens' work with the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice Coordination (OCJC) promotes an accountable, efficient and effective criminal justice system in Orleans Parish. Under Commissioner Stevens' leadership, the City of New Orleans has secured over \$26 million in grant funding, including two congressional community project funding requests to expedite local accreditation of the crime lab and address community violence. Commissioner Stevens has also played a pivotal role in the development of the city's violence reduction strategy by restoring of the Police Department's Victim and Witness Division, championing Pre-Trial Services at Criminal District Court, building the infrastructure to establish a Youth Assessment Center, and transforming antiquated justice technology with a \$35 million American Rescue Plan Act investment.

Prior to joining Mayor Cantrell's administration in 2018, Commissioner Stevens dedicated more than 20 years of public service to the New Orleans Police Department, the Louisiana Attorney General's Office and the Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office. Commissioner Stevens received her master's in criminal justice from Southern University at New Orleans. Her memberships include Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.'s New Orleans Alumnae Chapter, the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice, the Criminal Justice Policy Advisors Network, the National Criminal Justice Association and the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Commissioner Stevens also serves on the following boards: New Orleans Children and Youth Planning, Dillard Center for Racial Justice, Total Community Action, New Orleans East Hospital, Covenant House New Orleans, and the Dryades YMCA. She is the devoted mother to Maddie, a college sophomore.

CHRISTOPHER JAMES

Christopher James is a member of the Social Justice and Well-being team with the W. Haywood Burns Institute. Chris is working to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in adult and youth justice systems nationwide. He comes to the Burns Institute with the hopes of directly engaging system stakeholders on behalf of communities of color, which are all too often not given a voice in response to a system in which they are overrepresented. He brings a background of direct legal representation of students recommended for suspension and expulsion throughout the Greater New Orleans area. While completing his education, Christopher interned with the Youth Law Center in San Francisco, CA and the Federal Public Defender's Office in Miami, FL. Directly prior to joining the BI, Christopher worked to help develop, manage, and install a community advocacy program for foster youth in an underserved rural area. Chris graduated from Tulane Law School.

FEATURED FACILITATORS

THELMA HARRIS FRENCH

Thelma French is the CEO of Total Community Action (TCA). Total Community Action's mission is to reduce poverty in our community through collaboration with other agencies by providing human services, experiences, and opportunities that move persons from poverty to self-sufficiency. Ms. French's public administrative experience includes serving as Director of Board Operations and Intergovernmental Relations for the Orleans Parish School Board, and Executive Assistant for Federal and State Programs for former mayors Marc Morial and Ray Nagin. Ms. French has also served as an Assistant Professor of Sociology and Criminal Justice.

Ms. French is a member of the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council, Chair of the Sanford "Sandy" Krasnoff Criminal Justice Council, Co-Chair of the New Orleans Reentry Taskforce, among other various appointments. She is a proud alumna of Dillard University and member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

DR. RAYNARD SANDERS

Dr. Sanders is an award-winning author, educator, administrator, radio talk show host and community activist. Dr. Sanders serves as the Executive Director of the Claiborne Avenue History Project, and has over thirty years of experience in teaching, educational administration, and economic and community development.

NA'JAI WILLIAMS

Na'Jai Williams is a confident, ambitious 14-year-old student at St. Mary's Academy, where she'll be entering the 9th grade this fall. She proudly serves my community through active roles on the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council and the Nord Teen Council. She also leads with heart and dedication as the captain of her school's Liturgical Dance Team. She is honored to be recognized at the top of her class for the graduating class of 2024, and is fully committed to continuing that excellence into the 2025 school year and beyond.

CHEYENNE LEWIS

Cheyenne Lewis is a 16-year-old rising junior at Benjamin Franklin High School. She is passionate about becoming a lawyer, with a strong interest in criminal and family law. As an active youth advocate, she serves on both the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council and the New Orleans Children and Youth Planning Board. I've completed multiple law internships and regularly volunteer in my community to create positive change.

FEATURED FACILITATORS

YAA BOATENG

Yaa Boateng is a driven leader, a high-achieving student, and an active community volunteer. Known for her communication skills, resilience, and ability to handle multiple responsibilities, Yaa is committed to making a positive impact in every endeavor. Yaa's interests span law and business. She's completed over 100 volunteer hours and volunteers at the library and the Louisiana Children's Museum. As a summer intern under Judge Kimya Holmes Yaa is excitedly immersing herself in the world of law and policy.

As the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council Secretary Yaa further developed her civic engagement and organizational skills. Her academic achievements include a 4.0 GPA for the last three years, CollegeBoard National African American Recognition Award, Academic Excellence in Health, Computer Science, and recognition with the Founder's Merit at East Point Atlanta's Amario's Art Academy.

DR. JULIA FLECKMAN, PHD, MPH

Dr. Julia Fleckman, PhD, MPH is an Associate Professor at the Celia Scott Weatherhead School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine at Tulane University and the Director of Research and Evaluation at the Violence Prevention Institute. Dr. Fleckman's research primarily focuses on the prevention of community and family violence, with a particular emphasis on preventing firearm violence. She is currently working on several evaluation projects of policies and programs that impact firearm violence both locally in New Orleans and nationally. Dr. Fleckman places a particular emphasis on working collaboratively with local and national community-based organization, governmental agencies, and advocacy groups to ensure meaningful impact of her research.

DR. KIM MOSBY

Kim Mosby, PhD is a sociologist urban planner and a community engagement specialist, currently working as an Associate Director of Research at the Vera Institute of Justice in the Louisiana office. Dr. Mosby leads a variety of research projects designed to support advocacy to reduce mass incarceration and build safe, thriving communities across Louisiana. Dr. Mosby's work is focused on dismantling oppressive systems and building institutions that deliver safety and justice with research interests that include structural inequality, intersectionality, housing and community development, social policy, and qualitative methods.

FEATURED FACILITATORS

THERESA MCKINNEY

Theresa joined the OCJC team in June 2022. As Senior Researcher, she joins and tabulates criminal legal system data from multiple agencies to produce data graphics and reports. Theresa aims to generate analyses and findings that are accurate, relevant, and actionable. Before working at OCJC, she was a research associate at the Vera Institute, New Orleans Office.

Theresa is a proud alumna of Mills College and earned a Master's degree in educational psychology with a specialization in qualitative, quantitative, and psychometric methods from a midwestern land-grant university. Theresa lives in Algiers with her partner of over 25 years. Most evenings, you'll find her catching the sunset on the levee.

KATE HOADLEY

Kate joined the OCJC team in October 2020. As Chief of Staff, her work includes: managing the office's racial justice initiatives and communications, researching best practices related to criminal legal system reform, and conducting special projects in support of the Criminal Justice Commissioner.

Kate graduated from Bowdoin College in Africana Studies, and previously worked with advocacy organizations, including the ACLU-NH. A passionate advocate for racial justice and criminal legal system reinvention, Kate loves working for an office that champions systemic reform. On most weekends, you will find Kate walking through Audubon Park or at a local coffee shop with friends.

GET IN CONTACT

HAVE QUESTIONS?

CONTACT THE MAYOR'S OFFICE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATION!

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